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News Release

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Corps to close navigation locks for annual maintenance

Walla Walla, Wash. – Eight sets of navigation locks at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers dams on the Columbia and Snake rivers will be temporarily closed for approximately two weeks beginning March 4, 2000, starting at 6 a.m. according to an official from the Corps' Walla Walla District. The outage will permit workers to conduct annual inspections and perform maintenance on the locks' mechanical systems and related facilities.

"These locks will be closed to all commercial and recreation traffic during the annual work," said Jack Allison, chief of the technical support branch of operations division. The eight Corps navigation locks provide a 465-mile inland waterway from the mouth of the Columbia River at the Pacific Ocean, past seaport terminals in Portland, Ore., turning upstream on the Snake River near the Tri-Cities area of Washington, and inland to the mouth of the Clearwater River at Lewiston, Idaho.

"The locks are scheduled to reopen at 11:59 p.m., March 17," said Allison. The closure period will coincide with that of other Corps dams on the Columbia River. Affected navigation locks in the Walla Walla District projects include: McNary Dam on the Columbia River and Ice Harbor, Lower Monumental, Little Goose and Lower Granite dams on the Snake River.

Other Corps facilities affected during the same outage period include John Day, The Dalles and Bonneville dams, all operated by the Corps' Portland District. For more information contact Ann Glassley at (509) 527-7115 or Jack Allison at (509) 527-7113.

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